



# **Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund 2015 Biennial Report**

**Submitted to the Tennessee General Assembly**

**House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**

**Senate Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**

**TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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## Introduction

In 1991 the 97<sup>th</sup> General Assembly established the Agricultural Nonpoint Water Pollution Control Fund [TCA §67-4-409(l)]. The purpose of the Fund was to implement a program for the abatement and prevention of nonpoint source pollution that may be caused by agricultural activities. Revenue for the program is derived from the Recordation Tax on the transfer of real property from which the Ag Nonpoint Fund receives 1.5 cents per \$100 of property value, or from appropriations of the General Assembly. Pursuant to TCA §67-4-409(m)(1)(C), the commissioner of agriculture is required to file a report every odd-numbered year that details the expenditures from this fund.

In 1997, the General Assembly enacted modifications to the Fund, by renaming it the Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund, and by focusing the program to fund solutions to nonpoint water pollution from agriculture, to educate the landowners, producers, and managers about activities to eliminate nonpoint source pollution, and to fund projects associated with livestock production that may cause pollution. In FY 2003, the funding status of the program changed from being totally recurring to a mixture of recurring and non-recurring funding. In FY 2008, the funding status changed to totally non-recurring funding. In FY 2010, funding was restored to the original recurring status.

The Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund provides funding to landowners in all 95 counties through partnerships with Soil Conservation Districts to install needed Best Management Practices on their lands to lessen the impairment of the waters of Tennessee from excessive soil loss and livestock impacts, and associated pollutant transport. Funds are

FIGURE 1: TYPICAL CROSS FENCING PRACTICE- DECATUR COUNTY



also available for Information and Education projects, to educate landowners, producers and managers about how to best keep their operations from causing degradation of our streams, lakes, and rivers.

The Water Resources Program within the Department's Administration and Grants Division has the responsibility to administer the Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund. The Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund is used by

the Department as a programmatic non-federal matching fund for the 319 Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Program, funded through the US Environmental Protection Agency.

## Program Components

The Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund includes:

1. Best Management Practices (BMPs) that control soil erosion from cropland such as terraces, grade stabilization structures, diversions, water and sediment control basins, grassed waterways, field borders, riparian filters, buffer strips and other practices that may be recommended by the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS).
2. BMPs that control and manage animal waste such as structural systems (lagoons, holding ponds), poultry composters, litter storage facilities, livestock exclusion systems, rotational grazing systems, alternative watering facilities, and other practices recommended by the USDA-NRCS.
3. Information and Education projects that promote the adoption of agricultural BMPs and create public awareness about such activities, such as field days, workshops, events sponsored by Soil Conservation Districts, and on-farm demonstrations conducted by institutions of higher education.

FIGURE 2: WINTER COVER CROP CONSERVATION PRACTICE-  
HARDIN COUNTY



## Program Priorities

As stated in TCA §67-4-409 (l), "It is the intent of the general assembly that the highest priority of the agricultural resources conservation fund is to abate and prevent nonpoint source water pollution that may be associated with agricultural production."

Further, the statute directs funds "to address point and nonpoint source water quality issues, as well as nuisance problems, including, but not limited to, odor, noise, dust and similar concerns". Therefore, the Department has developed guidelines for the program, to ensure that the BMPs installed across Tennessee will have a positive effect on the water resources of our state.

## Financial History

Consistent with the requirements of TCA 67-4-409(m), the following is a summary of expenditures relative to implementation of the Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund. From FY 1992 to FY 2012, over \$63 million dollars have been directed and/or appropriated to this program, and to date, due to the voluntary participation of Tennessee farmers, over 32,000 conservation practices have been installed, positively impacting nearly 900,000 acres of farmland and the adjacent and downstream water resources.

## Summary of Activities of the Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund

Fiscal Year	FY 1992-1999	FY 2000-2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Revenues	\$18,489,629	\$44,803,663	\$4,565,642	\$4,677,367
Expenditures	\$16,767,331	\$40,243,268	\$2,612,803	\$3,178,996
Grants to Soil Conservation Districts	660	1,160	95	95
Grants to Multi-County Organizations/Other	139	193	7	6
Number of Practices Installed	11,275	21,167	1,254	1,597
Acres Treated/ Stabilized	340,624	553,032	33,167	48,477

FIGURE 3: EXCLUSION FENCING PRACTICE-CLAIBORNE COUNTY



FIGURE 4: STREAM CROSSING PRACTICE- BLOUNT COUNTY





## Documented Successes

To date, there have been 31 streams across Tennessee where water quality has measurably improved due to the implementation of conservation projects funded through the Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund, along with the conservation programs. Full descriptions of these successes may be found online at:

<http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/success319/>

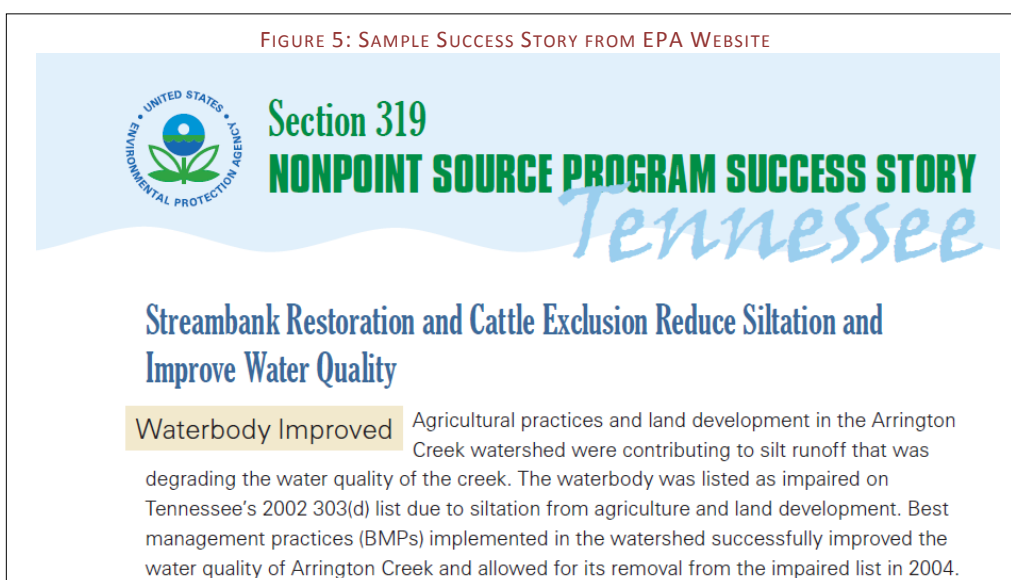


FIGURE 6: ALTERNATIVE WATERING FACILITY JEFFERSON COUNTY



FIGURE 7: LIMITED ACCESS WATERING- KNOX COUNTY



FIGURE 8: STREAMBANK PROTECTION- MAURY COUNTY



FIGURE 9: WATER AND SEDIMENT CONTROL BASIN- DYER COUNTY



FIGURE 10: ON-FARM OUTREACH



## Summary of Expenditures

By Soil Conservation Districts in Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014 for the Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund

	FY 2013		FY 2014		Totals	
County SCD	No. Practices	Total Expenditures	No. Practices	Total Expenditures	Total No. Practices	Total
Anderson	10	\$19,440.00	24	\$27,625.00	34	\$47,065.00
Bedford	20	\$30,317.58	60	\$77,396.91	80	\$107,714.49
Benton	10	\$17,790.00	7	\$26,987.00	17	\$44,777.00
Bledsoe	0	\$3,330.00	12	\$32,050.94	12	\$35,380.94
Blount	9	\$13,420.00	21	\$30,649.41	30	\$44,069.41
Bradley	4	\$15,265.17	4	\$7,150.72	8	\$22,415.89
Campbell	11	\$10,851.00	7	\$14,427.00	18	\$25,278.00
Cannon	11	\$20,036.90	11	\$32,988.12	22	\$53,025.02
Carroll	11	\$26,217.46	11	\$22,734.32	22	\$48,951.78
Carter	3	\$8,050.00	0	\$3,150.00	3	\$11,200.00
Cheatham	17	\$41,993.30	33	\$77,106.79	50	\$119,100.09
Chester	3	\$4,987.11	9	\$17,935.73	12	\$22,922.84
Claiborne	34	\$84,034.00	53	\$115,942.00	87	\$199,976.00
Clay	22	\$40,146.43	25	\$30,346.84	47	\$70,493.27
Cocke	15	\$24,722.00	6	\$11,421.00	21	\$36,143.00
Coffee	36	\$67,378.25	45	\$74,532.35	81	\$141,910.60
Crockett	11	\$18,032.05	11	\$21,142.24	22	\$39,174.29
Cumberland	8	\$35,645.60	15	\$45,866.07	23	\$81,511.67
Davidson	12	\$21,421.47	11	\$21,465.05	23	\$42,886.52
Decatur	11	\$17,168.68	12	\$23,568.32	23	\$40,737.00
DeKalb	15	\$17,821.13	18	\$27,468.77	33	\$45,289.90
Dickson	0	\$3,900.00	14	\$18,737.03	14	\$22,637.03
Dyer	20	\$52,100.00	13	\$31,577.81	33	\$83,677.81
Fayette	19	\$37,370.00	25	\$31,993.53	44	\$69,363.53



	FY2013		FY2014		Totals	
County SCD	No. Practices	Total Expenditures	No. Practices	Total Expenditures	Total No. Practices	Total Expenditures
Fentress	16	\$42,575.00	12	\$20,498.44	28	\$63,073.44
Franklin	1	\$4,657.88	15	\$31,773.26	16	\$36,431.14
Gibson	18	\$65,645.23	34	\$75,090.33	52	\$140,735.56
Giles	20	\$33,625.75	22	\$49,475.37	42	\$83,101.12
Grainger	69	\$63,577.00	53	\$75,447.00	122	\$139,024.00
Greene	13	\$23,527.00	21	\$54,759.00	34	\$78,286.00
Grundy	0	\$3,270.00	0	\$2,100.00	0	\$5,370.00
Hamblen	18	\$35,382.00	31	\$70,553.00	49	\$105,935.00
Hamilton	0	\$3,510.00	0	\$3,740.00	0	\$7,250.00
Hancock	26	\$38,865.00	9	\$40,429.00	35	\$79,294.00
Hardeman	13	\$24,504.42	17	\$25,097.23	30	\$49,601.65
Hardin	9	\$30,601.95	6	\$35,399.70	15	\$66,001.65
Hawkins	17	\$43,090.00	31	\$51,777.00	48	\$94,867.00
Haywood	16	\$37,790.00	29	\$40,160.00	45	\$77,950.00
Henderson	16	\$29,843.98	17	\$31,732.00	33	\$61,575.98
Henry	12	\$21,600.00	30	\$46,922.78	42	\$68,522.78
Hickman	16	\$23,023.44	9	\$16,899.00	25	\$39,922.44
Houston	11	\$13,881.90	2	\$7,875.59	13	\$21,757.49
Humphreys	5	\$13,096.32	19	\$38,766.78	24	\$51,863.10
Jackson	17	\$31,875.56	20	\$32,679.51	37	\$64,555.07
Jefferson	18	\$28,600.00	36	\$53,044.00	54	\$81,644.00
Johnson	15	\$15,674.71	1	\$3,127.00	16	\$18,801.71
Knox	34	\$76,888.01	24	\$43,849.00	58	\$120,737.01
Lake	8	\$27,802.33	1	\$17,760.00	9	\$45,562.33
Lauderdale	25	\$53,480.00	47	\$36,464.23	72	\$89,944.23
Lawrence	3	\$26,635.51	26	\$30,193.36	29	\$56,828.87
Lewis	5	\$9,504.13	6	\$19,467.80	11	\$28,971.93

	FY2013		FY2014		Totals	
County SCD	No. Practices	Total Expenditures	No. Practices	Total Expenditures	Total No. Practices	Total Expenditures
Lincoln	7	\$21,861.39	28	\$58,045.19	35	\$79,906.58
Loudon	13	\$22,804.61	25	\$37,135.55	38	\$59,940.16
Macon	17	\$32,914.37	30	\$49,895.68	47	\$82,810.05
Madison	13	\$26,963.58	14	\$39,686.42	27	\$66,650.00
Marion	0	\$2,100.00	5	\$16,614.64	5	\$18,714.64
Marshall	31	\$40,156.66	20	\$18,155.66	51	\$58,312.32
Maury	11	\$55,079.96	36	\$59,278.62	47	\$114,358.58
McMinn	0	\$3,890.00	0	\$3,510.00	0	\$7,400.00
McNairy	1	\$11,013.22	2	\$5,562.00	3	\$16,575.22
Meigs	1	\$4,099.48	0	\$3,060.00	1	\$7,159.48
Monroe	35	\$38,452.00	28	\$52,910.98	63	\$91,362.98
Montgomery	20	\$38,345.13	0	\$3,720.00	20	\$42,065.13
Moore	3	\$13,985.60	8	\$10,450.77	11	\$24,436.37
Morgan	23	\$58,253.00	12	\$47,479.00	35	\$105,732.00
Obion	25	\$60,030.52	35	\$64,471.22	60	\$124,501.74
Overton	9	\$12,368.13	36	\$54,281.54	45	\$66,649.67
Perry	6	\$10,415.58	12	\$21,401.82	18	\$31,817.40
Pickett	12	\$21,250.06	11	\$18,162.83	23	\$39,412.89
Polk	7	\$24,670.00	11	\$20,365.18	18	\$45,035.18
Putnam	13	\$25,890.13	13	\$31,735.13	26	\$57,625.26
Rhea	0	\$3,860.00	3	\$12,674.99	3	\$16,534.99
Roane	14	\$36,605.06	8	\$33,605.90	22	\$70,210.96
Robertson	26	\$36,742.82	14	\$33,378.25	40	\$70,121.07
Rutherford	7	\$10,150.13	13	\$21,430.28	20	\$31,580.41
Scott	10	\$20,618.98	2	\$11,635.95	12	\$32,254.93
Sequatchie	4	\$10,257.51	4	\$12,267.30	8	\$22,524.81
Sevier	6	\$11,524.00	25	\$33,134.00	31	\$44,658.00

	FY 2013		FY2014		Totals	
County SCD	No. Practices	Total Expenditures	No. Practices	Total Expenditures	Total No. Practices	Total Expenditures
Shelby	5	\$21,993.64	2	\$11,190.00	7	\$33,183.64
Smith	8	\$16,182.26	4	\$13,644.98	12	\$29,827.24
Stewart	4	\$3,405.59	2	\$4,701.59	6	\$8,107.18
Sullivan	12	\$37,409.00	25	\$50,243.00	37	\$87,652.00
Sumner	11	\$12,243.63	13	\$9,620.79	24	\$21,864.42
Tipton	36	\$90,400.07	39	\$97,469.65	75	\$187,869.72
Trousdale	6	\$13,164.30	10	\$10,596.92	16	\$23,761.22
Unicoi	0	\$2,370.00	1	\$10,582.00	1	\$12,952.00
Union	43	\$69,655.00	28	\$54,359.00	71	\$124,014.00
Van Buren	7	\$30,320.84	4	\$20,757.99	11	\$51,078.83
Warren	15	\$18,208.38	18	\$39,545.50	33	\$57,753.88
Washington	22	\$42,730.00	17	\$62,049.00	39	\$104,779.00
Wayne	11	\$27,630.00	18	\$48,719.17	29	\$76,349.17
Weakley	1	\$11,042.79	3	\$4,157.21	4	\$15,200.00
White	9	\$21,270.09	19	\$26,371.85	28	\$47,641.94
Williamson	11	\$17,262.36	18	\$51,051.64	29	\$68,314.00
Wilson	4	\$8,944.23	9	\$27,190.78	13	\$36,135.01

## List of Partners

- Tennessee's 95 Soil Conservation Districts
- US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- County Governments
- State Soil Conservation Committee
- UT Institute of Agriculture
- Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts
- Tennessee Conservation District Employees Association
- Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

